

## FORD ABANDONS PEACE MISSION FOR TIME BEING

His Illness Is Pronounced Serious but Not Dangerous—Doctor Has Ordered Absolute Rest for Patient.

### WILL REJOIN PARTY LATER

Meanwhile Delegates Will Continue On to Copenhagen and The Hague—Message Has Been Sent to William J. Bryan to Join the Expedition.

Stockholm, Dec. 29, via London.—On account of his serious illness, Henry Ford has been compelled to abandon his trip. The remaining members of the expedition will continue on to Copenhagen and The Hague with the idea of carrying out Mr. Ford's plan for a permanent arbitration board. The committee has issued the following statement:

"The illness of Mr. Ford, while not dangerous, is serious. His doctor asserts confidently that there is no organic disease, but that there is urgent need for rest. The doctor is hopeful that the relief from responsibility for the expedition will speedily restore him to normal health."

Before leaving the party Mr. Ford said:

"If I am well enough, I will surely join the expedition later. I am confident it will continue the same without me and that it will do much toward bringing peace."

The absence of Mr. Ford has caused serious regret among the delegates, as the impression seems to prevail that it will detract materially from the prospects of the expedition.

While in Stockholm, Mr. Ford was obliged to remain constantly in his hotel, and his non-appearance caused much disappointment to the thousands of Norwegians at the meetings and to the many who gathered in front of his stopping place. His absence was commented upon by the local press.

A message has been sent to William J. Bryan, urging him to come to Europe and join the party.

London, Dec. 24.—A despatch to Reuters' Telegram company from Stockholm says:

Henry Ford's peace party arrived here this morning. Fifty-seven rooms had been engaged for them at one of the big hotels. Mr. Ford's secretary, Lewis P. Lochner, told interviewers that Mr. Ford would stay in Norway for some time to regain his health, but would later rejoin the expedition. Mr. Lochner declared that no differences existed among the members of the party.

"Tomorrow morning the Swedish Peace and Arbitration association will arrange a meeting at which the members of the Ford peace mission will be welcomed by M. Wavrinck, supreme head of the Good Templars."

### FIRE DESTROYS BARN.

Seven Horses Perish—Blaze Thought to Have Been Started by Incendiary.

St. Albans, Dec. 28.—The large horse and cow barn belonging to William Pelkey of the Newton road was destroyed yesterday morning between two and three o'clock in a fire which Mr. Pelkey thinks was of incendiary origin. Seven horses, about four tons of hay and 300 bushels of grain were burned, also a tool shed and pig pen which were so near the barn that it was impossible to save them.

Mr. Pelkey's family first knew of the fire through a telephone message from John Sanders, who lives nearby and who had discovered the fire. The hay was all in flames and it was impossible for anyone to enter the barn long enough to save much of the contents. Mr. Pelkey and his son, Frank Pelkey, did nothing and had excellent equipment for the work. All the horses were burned. Mr. Pelkey had one cow for the use of the family and that was saved; also a pig, one buggy, and a cutter. Beside the livestock, etc., Mr. Pelkey lost one new single buggy, three sets of double harnesses, forks, shovels, and other tools.

The place on the Newton road was purchased by Mr. Pelkey only a few years ago and at that time he put up new buildings. The loss is estimated at \$2,000, at least, and this was partially covered by insurance.

### MYSTERIOUS MURDER.

Paris, France, as Publishing as the "Rue Morgue" Tale of Poe.

Paris, Dec. 26.—"The murders in the Rue Morgue," as depicted by Edgar Allan Poe, are having their counterpart in the real life at Clermont-Ferrand during the unravelling of the mystery surrounding the death by violence last August of Mlle. Marie Christophe, a young woman belonging to one of the wealthiest families of the place. The police have been investigating a report that the girl was slain by a monkey.

During the night on which Marie Christophe met her death a fire occurred in her home. Neighbors rushed in and found her dead with wounds on her head. Various theories were put forward as to the cause of death and the Christophe family offered a large reward for the capture of the person or persons who killed her. Last October the inquiries by the police led to the arrest of the girl's brother, Jean Christophe, and her mother, Mme. Marguerite Christophe, who were alleged to have had a hand in her death.

Recently reports became current in Clermont-Ferrand that a monkey had gained entrance to Marie Christophe's chamber and killed her. As a result the police searched the town. They found five of the animals, but an alibi has been established for each.

REASON ENOUGH.  
Sister—What makes you think, sir, that I will not be able to support your daughter?

Her Father—The difficulty I've had in doing it myself.—Boston Transcript.

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## HENRY C. FRICK OF PITTSBURG IS YEAR'S PRIZE SANTA CLAUS

As a Christmas Gift He Will Pay in Full All the Accounts of the 41,000 Children Depositors Lost When a Pittsburg Bank Was Closed Recently—Deposits Amount to \$167,136.68.

Pittsburg, Pa., Dec. 24.—Joy prevailed in the hearts of Pittsburg school children to-night as a result of the announcement late today by H. C. Frick, millionaire coal magnate, that he will pay in full as a Christmas gift all the accounts of the 41,000 children depositors in the Pittsburg Bank of Savings, which was closed here last Wednesday by order of the state department of banking. The deposits amount to \$167,136.68, and payment will be made in cash just as soon as the necessary arrangements can be completed, which will probably be about January 3.

In order to induce children to save a school savings fund was started many years ago. Through an agreement with the city board of education, bank collectors visited the 132 schools in the city weekly.

### BARELY ESCAPED.

Students of School at Highland, N. Y., Driven from Bed by Fire.

Highland, N. Y., Dec. 25.—One hundred guests of the Chodokee Lake Hotel and 90 students of the Raymond Rorland school were barely able to escape early to-night when the hotel and school buildings at Chodokee Lake, seven miles north of this village, were destroyed by fire. The blaze spread through the frame structures with such rapidity that the occupants were unable to save any of their personal belongings.

Sleighs were sent out from this village and brought many of the sleeping guests and students back here, where the doors of the Methodist Church were thrown open to them. Bedding and mattresses were brought in and the victims will spend the night in the church. The loss is placed at \$150,000.

## CHRISTMAS SPIRIT WAS NOT LACKING IN NEW YORK CITY

New York, Dec. 24.—Official celebration of Christmas began in New York to-night when the lights were turned on in "community trees" and church bazaar carrels while thousands of belated shoppers paused to listen. Charitable organizations completed preparations for the distribution of thousands of well-filled baskets and none will need lack a share in the holiday cheer. Postal and express company employees toiled late to clear away an avalanche of Christmas packages.

On the stock exchanges, in Wall Street, banks and brokers offices, stores and factories, Christmas bonuses were distributed with a lavish hand. Gift buying was on an unprecedented scale and there was no lack of funds to provide for the needs of charity.

Commander Evangeline Booth announced that all arrangements had been made for the biggest Christmas dinner ever given by the Salvation Army, anywhere in the world. More than 50,000 persons in the metropolitan district will share in the feast and toys will be given to nearly 20,000 children. Other similar organizations will entertain on a larger scale than usual.

Vincent Astor will provide dinner tomorrow for 1,500 families through various agencies. Congressman George W. Loft will distribute 3,000 baskets among the poor of his district, and James J. Hagan, democratic leader of the 15th assembly district, played Santa Claus to-night for 2,000 persons. Through an Italian newspaper, 3,000 parcels were distributed among the Italian poor.

In hospitals and institutions there was no lack of the Christmas spirit and in almost every one of them there was a tree. An entertainment was given to-night for the immigrants at Ellis island. Christmas day was ushered in with prayers for peace offered at midnight masses in every Roman Catholic Church in the diocese under instructions from Cardinal Farley.

### PRICES LOWER.

Wholesale Figures in United States One per Cent Under 1915.

Washington, Dec. 26.—Wholesale prices in the United States were nearly one per cent lower in 1915 than during the year before. A comprehensive bulletin on the subject, issued to-night by the bureau of labor statistics, shows there were decided decreases in the prices of clothing, fuel, metals and building materials, more than offsetting increases on farm products and foods. The bulletin deals only with the year 1915, before the full effect of the European war had been felt by American industry and commerce.

### NO FOREIGN LOAN.

Carranza Will Try to Run Mexico for Time without Borrowing.

Washington, Dec. 26.—Unofficial information has been received here that General Carranza will try to run the de facto government in Mexico without seeking a foreign loan until some months hence because of the prevailing high price of money. An effort will be made next month to finance a federal bank, but funds obtained for this purpose would not be available for government use, although the new banking system is expected to do much toward restoring the country's credit.

Although Mexico now is practically bankrupt, the treasury empty and the national debt increased, Carranza is said to believe that with a policy of economy his administration will be able to conduct itself for some time merely by using the ordinary resources of the country.

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### FRENCH FINANCES.

Reserves Still Considerable, Says Financial Minister Ribot.

Paris, Dec. 26.—Some details of the result of the "loan of victory" have been given by M. Ribot, minister of finance, during a discussion in the Senate of the appropriation bill for the first three months of 1916.

"The reserves of France are still considerable," said M. Ribot. "We have negotiated a loan larger than others, and at the same time our resources are coming fresh and are well advanced, while the others already are showing signs of lassitude. We will overcome whatever difficulties may arise, because we have the courage, resolution and confidence of the country."

M. Ribot explained that a real budget would not be presented to the Chamber of Deputies this year. It would be impossible, at least as to military appropriations to give figures a year in advance.

Expenses, M. Ribot declared were constantly increasing. It was necessary to manufacture more for the needs of the war and also to advance money to Belgium and Serbia.

"It is necessary to establish new taxes," asked the minister. "Great Britain has done so, but she is in a different position than we. In France a new heavy tax could not be collected easily and it would be a heavy burden on the country. We would be living then, on credit. We have just negotiated a loan under difficult conditions."

### NEWS TOLD IN BRIEF

Washington despatch says that House committee on public lands has practically agreed to report favorably administration conservation water power bill—virtually identical with one which passed at last session and died in the Senate.

Two of largest steel companies have practically no material of any kind to sell for delivery before July next.

Kaiser has prohibited any Christmas festivities in German court or otherwise before peace shall have been established. New Year's wishes will not be barred, and royal princes will not be allowed to return home to spend Christmas in their family circles. The Kaiser and Kaiserin will spend Christmas at headquarters in France.

Major H. G. Mayer, who has arrived from England to take charge of bayonet and physical drill in Canada, says England will have 4,000,000 trained men in the field early next year, and will inaugurate a great "dusting off" in the spring, to consist mainly of hand-to-hand encounters on an enormous scale.

France has declared its attitude against drinking. French temperance society, The Alarm, has been reorganized on a larger basis, headed by President Poincaré, and including every prominent Frenchman.

British casualties in Serbian expedition were but 1,278, of whom one officer and 55 enlisted men died.

### \$750,000 STOLEN.

Thieves Take Bonds of Du Pont, Atlas and Hercules Powder Companies.

Wilmington, Del., Dec. 26.—Stock certificates of the Du Pont, Atlas and Hercules Powder companies and General Motors company, and coupon railroad bonds to the value of \$750,000 were stolen from a registered mail pouch here shortly before midnight Sunday night while it was being transported from the Wilmington post office to the Pennsylvania railroad station. Of this amount \$350,000 was found later hidden beneath a blanket in the mail wagon.

Albert Johnson and Karl Johnson, negroes, drivers of the wagon, were arrested. They are not related. They are believed to be merely tools of the real robbers, who escaped with the booty.

The securities were en route to New York. Some of the stock belongs to the Du Pont company, and other stock is the property of brokers in New York who bought the shares for clients. The stock was one of three of which the negroes were in charge. It was the only one containing registered mail. The robbery evidently was the culmination of a carefully laid plot.

The postoffice officials are silent. Meanwhile the remaining \$400,000 in securities is missing. It is said the stocks and coupons can be transferred or negotiated more readily than the shares found in the mail wagon.

The negro drivers were questioned rigorously to-day by postoffice officials and the police, but the result was kept secret. It is said the drivers made admissions, for soon afterward Postoffice Inspector M. S. Plummer and a companion who were present at their examination disappeared, supposedly in pursuit of clues.

### MIGHT BE WORSE.

Maiden Aunt to Little nephew on a visit—You're not getting homelier, Willie? Little Boy—Oh, no auntie, it's even duller at home.—London Opinion.

## YOUNG PEOPLE OF RUTLAND RECEIVE VALUABLE GIFT

Ex-Gov. Mead Presents Them with McIntire Property to Be Used as Community Center.

Rutland, Dec. 25.—The Rev. A. M. Bradfoot, pastor of the First Congregational Church of Rutland, announced at this morning's service the gift by ex-Governor John A. Mead of this city of the McIntire property at the southeast corner of Center and Court streets to be used by the young people of Rutland as a community center with club rooms, gymnasium, tennis court, etc., and to be administered by the trustees and used as headquarters for various social and recreative activities under the general supervision of the Congregational Church. Governor Mead has had in mind for two years the gift of a parish house to the church and the idea gradually developed into a more extensive plan. It is planned to dedicate the property to the young people of Rutland and regardless of creed or church connection to make it of the widest scope.

The place, which is located only a few rods from the Congregational Church, consists of a large three-story brick house, a large brick barn and half an acre of land.

The remodeling of house and barn, the equipment of a gymnasium, the laying out of tennis courts, the establishment of social rooms with games and amusements, the location of committee rooms, dining room, kitchen and an auditorium are among the things planned for the project, the entire expense to be borne by Governor Mead. The property will be deeded to the trustees of the Congregational Church and it is estimated that the gift when the buildings are remodeled and equipped and the grounds laid out will have cost Governor Mead \$50,000.

Although the church will be the responsible organization behind the plan for this community center it is designed to be a place for the entire community, a non-sectarian board with liberal powers.

## GREAT SALES OF NATIONAL FOREST TIMBER TRACTS

Washington, Dec. 24.—Bids have been accepted by the department of agriculture for two large bodies of national forest timber estimated to contain 188,100,000 board feet. One is in California and the other in Utah. With one exception, these are by far the most important sales made this fiscal year, which is expected by forestry officials to run considerably above last year in receipts from timber sales, the first five months having shown an increase of nearly 40 per cent.

The California sale is on the Pumas national forest in the Sierra mountains. The most valuable timber is sugar pine for which \$3.25 per thousand was bid, with an estimated total of nearly 26,000,000 board feet on the tract. For yellow pine, of which the amount is put at over 37,000,000 feet, \$2.60 was bid. Douglas fir, white fir, and incense cedar, which have a much lower market value, brought an average of only 70 cents a thousand for a total of over 45,000,000 feet. The purchaser will be allowed an operating period of 15 years, besides a year at the beginning for the construction of necessary improvements; but the prices to be paid are subject to readjustment every five years.

The Utah timber is in the Wasatch National Forest, and will be cut chiefly for railroad ties. It comprises, according to the government's estimate, 12,000,000 board feet of green and dead lodgepole pine, Engelmann spruce, and Alpine fir. The sale price is 10 cents for each cut and half

### FAIRBANKS INN BURNS.

Valuable Seales Threatened in \$80,000 Blaze at St. Johnsbury.

St. Johnsbury, Dec. 26.—The Fairbanks Inn, owned by E. T. Fairbanks Co., and run by Joseph Brigham as a boarding house, was damaged by fire to-day to the extent of \$5,000, the three upper stories being destroyed. The loss is fully covered by insurance.

The fire was discovered about 3:30 o'clock around a chimney on the roof and before it could be put under control the three upper stories of the four-story building were burned. Owing to the high wind and the start the fire before being discovered it was necessary to cut the entire fire department of the city.

There was fear of the fire spreading to the freight buildings of the E. T. Fairbanks Co., whose plant is directly opposite the inn. Many thousands of dollars worth of scales ready for shipment were in the freight house, but the watchmen stationed on the roof of that and other buildings nearby prevented the spread of the threatening fire.

### FED. RESERVE STATEMENT.

Bills Discounted Last Five Days Increased \$2,000,000 over Previous Week.

Washington, Dec. 26.—Bills discounted by federal reserve banks during the last five days increased nearly \$2,000,000 over the previous week. Last week's statement, showing the banks' condition, December 23 has been issued by the federal reserve board. It shows: Resources, total reserve \$27,414,000.

Bills discounted and bought, total \$34,421,000. Total resources, including United States bonds, municipal warrants, federal reserve notes (net) and amounts due from federal reserve banks \$50,908,000.

Total liabilities, \$50,908,000. Gold reserve against net liabilities, 36.1 per cent; cash reserve against net liabilities, 85.5 per cent.

## 1,088 SHIPS USED PANAMA CANAL IN FIRST 10 MONTHS

Washington, Dec. 26.—A detailed account of the operation and maintenance of the Panama canal during the first 10 months and a half after it opened to commerce in August, 1914, is given in the annual report of Governor Goethals of the canal zone, made public to-night. Final construction work prior to the canal's opening also is described in the report, which embraces the fiscal year ending June 30 last, prior to the earth slide which blocked the channel.

Between August 15, 1914, and June 30, 1915, 1,088 vessels, representing a net Panama canal tonnage of 1,984,728 and cargo tonnage of 2,125,725 were passed through from Atlantic to Pacific and 588 vessels, representing a Panama canal tonnage of 1,968,367 and a cargo tonnage of 2,544,057 from Pacific to Atlantic, making a total of 1,688 vessels with a canal tonnage of 3,953,095 and a cargo tonnage of 4,669,782.

During this period three minor slides interrupted traffic, the channel being closed from October 14 to 20 and October 31 to November 4, 1914, and March 4 to 10, 1915.

Construction of the canal proper, except for dredging excavation and construction of the east breakwater at Colon, virtually was completed prior to this fiscal year. In the old Culebra cut, renamed the Gaillard cut, there were several slides in process of construction during the year, 1,500,000 cubic yards at an average cost of approximately 4-1/2 cents a yard. In maintaining the channel—including removal yards at a cost of 2-1/2 to 3 cents a yard and from the channel at the Atlantic entrance 1,200,000 cubic yards at a cost of 10-1/2 cents a yard.

"Culebra slide," the report says, "was very active from July to October, 1914, quiet during the dry season, and active again with the beginning of the rainy season in April. On the west side at Culebra the slide showed little activity through the greater part of the year. On the east bank, however, movement of the bank was noticeable, and it was estimated that 5,000,000 cubic yards of material were in motion on June 30, 1915, on the west side. It is estimated that 4,000,000 cubic yards will have to be removed from the east side."

Of the \$284,349,149 appropriated by Congress in June 30 last, the report states that \$14,688,823 has been spent on fortifications; \$250,000 to cover three annual payments to the republic of Panama; \$4,400,000 for the operation of the civil government of the canal zone for the fiscal year 1915; \$4,389,123 for the operation and maintenance of the canal to the end of the fiscal year 1915, leaving on hand aggregates \$2,255,000, leaving \$985,599,116 appropriated for the actual construction of the canal and its adjuncts.

Two million dollars of this was invested in collars, and \$6,583,067 was returned to the treasury department up to the close of the fiscal year 1915 as miscellaneous receipts, leaving \$37,436,048 as the net amount expended for the canal, including the amount available for work still in progress. A dry dock, two coaling stations and terminal piers, not included in these figures, are yet to be constructed.

Health conditions in the canal zone, the report says were very good during the year. The total death rate from disease was reduced from 14.46 in 1914 to 12.7 in 1915. Victims of malaria, the principal cause of disability, were reduced twenty per cent. In number and the death rate 32 per cent, in year. The admission rate to hospitals from typhoid was reduced more than 75 per cent, from dry sentry, fifty per cent, and the death rate from pneumonia was reduced more than 28 per cent.

Labor conditions were excellent. More than 6,000 men were given transportation home because they could not be used.

### BURLINGTON STATION MASTER

Al M. Prentiss of Rutland Appointed to Have Charge of the New Union Depot.

Rutland, Dec. 26.—Al M. Prentiss, for over 25 years connected with the passenger service of the Rutland railroad and for four years president of the local branch of the Brotherhood, an honor never conferred here before, has received the appointment of station master in charge of the new union depot at Burlington, and he will assume his new duties about the middle of January. A formal reception was tendered Mr. Prentiss at the meeting of the Brotherhood held in W. R. C. hall this afternoon following the installation of officers.

Mr. Prentiss first worked as a newsboy running between St. Albans, his birthplace 47 years ago, and Bellows Falls. Mr. Prentiss entered the employ of the Rutland railroad as a freight brakeman in 1888 and he was made a freight conductor in 1891 and a passenger conductor in 1893. For the last 18 years he has been connected with the baggage end of the service. He was in charge of the first carload of baggage running into Montreal after the Rutland railroad started running trains in that station.

Mr. Prentiss is a member of Rutland Lodge of Elks, Independent Order of Odd Fellows, Rutland Aerie of Eagles, Rutland Lodge of Moose, Rutland Lodge of Owls, and the Modern Woodmen of America.

### TREASURE NOT FOUND.

Unfruitful Search of U. S. Postoffice Inspector for Buried Wealth of Incas.

Colon, Panama, Dec. 26.—Harry A. Barber, a United States postoffice inspector, who has been in the interior of Peru trying to locate the buried treasure of the Incas, started for Washington tomorrow having it is understood, failed in his quest.

Inspector Barber was sent to Peru to investigate for the federal authorities at Wilmington, Del., the alleged existence of a treasure trove, placer gold deposit, which figures prominently in the McCune case in which the Du Ponts and other leading Delaware financiers are mentioned. McCune, it is said, floated a large corporation on the strength of having discovered the source of the gold of the ancient Incas. He finally became involved with the postoffice department. McCune is now at liberty under \$10,000 bail and, according to Barber, is in Peru endeavoring to locate the treasure.

The mine is said to be near the head waters of the Marañon river, which is 150 miles beyond the city of Cerro de Pasco and near the headwaters of the Amazon river. According to the McCune prospect there is an exceptionally rich vein of free gold. Barber said that he had spent six weeks making an investigation but declined to state with what results. He said, however, that the natives told him that they had never known of any gold in the vicinity.

## RECORD BREAKING TONNAGE CARRIED ON U. S. VESSELS

Despite the Fact That Merchant Ships under the American Flag Have Decreased.

Washington, Dec. 26.—Although the number of merchant ships under the American flag decreased the fiscal year ending with last June, the tonnage of the merchant marine showed a record breaking increase, according to the annual report of the commissioner of navigation, made public to-night.

On June 30, 1914, 25,941 vessels having a total gross tonnage of 7,585,888 were under American registry. A year later the number had decreased to 26,791, but the average tonnage was 2,899,429.

"The decline in the number of vessels with an increase in the total tonnage is the normal result of the development of water transportation," says the report. "The size of vessels has been steadily increasing since steel and steam came into general use. In tonnage and value the merchant shipping under the American flag is surpassed only by that under the British flag, and in tonnage it equals any two foreign flags combined except the British."

While the total of ships decreased only 242, the report points out, the decline in sailing ships was 283. Vessel in the foreign trade increased 389, the coasting trade showing a decline of 631. Receipts from tonnage duties during the year were \$1,315,425, a new record.

### OUTDOOR CHRISTMAS EVE.

San Francisco, Dec. 24.—San Francisco's annual outdoor Christmas eve festival took place in the Plaza of the new city center. The soloist this year was Miss Alice Gentry.

To-morrow all children will be welcome at the Panama-Pacific exposition grounds. All who ask will receive free street car tickets and there will be 25,000 free bags of candy.

## U. S. MARINE CORPS NEEDS 7,200 MEN ADDED TO SERVICE

Washington, Dec. 26.—The paramount need of the United States marine corps is an increase in officers and men, according to the annual report of its commandant, Major-General George Barnett, which was made public to-night. There are now 9,579 men and 344 officers in the marine corps, distributed on board ships, at naval stations, and in Haiti, Nicaragua, Guam, China, and the Philippines. Unless more officers and men are authorized by Congress the marine corps will not be able to properly take care of the interests of the government in peace, and will be badly handicapped in war.

General Barnett points out that in order to properly perform the duties assigned to it, the marine corps should have an increase of 7,200 men. However, General Barnett is asking for an increase of only 1,500 men, 90 officers and 23 warrant officers, and this has been approved and presented to Congress by Secretary Daniels in the estimates for enlarging the navy. The reason for asking for only about one-fifth of the number that General Barnett says the corps really need lies in the fact that the navy general board has adopted as its policy the maintenance of the marine corps at one-fifth of the navy, and the navy department is asking for an increase of only 7,200 bluejackets.

General Barnett explains that the machine detachments of the active fleet are habitually kept at their full strength. "There are, however," he says, "no men who would be available for duty on board the capital ships now in reserve or under construction, in case an emergency should arise requiring those vessels to join the active fleet. Approximately 1,400 men are needed for this duty. The companies to the fixed defense force are required to perfect themselves in their specialties. The most important of these specialties are handling submarine mines, the landing, mounting and manning of heavy batteries, together with the establishment and management of the fire control system; the manning of aero-defense batteries, handling of portable searchlights, and many other branches of technical work."

Storm Upsets Middlebury. Middlebury, Dec. 26.—Havoc was created here by the severe snow and wind storm that raged this morning. Telephone wires were blown down and limbs of trees were scattered over sidewalks. Attendance at services this morning was slight and several of the churches gave up services.

At two o'clock this morning the cellar of the house occupied by Prof. Thomas E. Boyce was flooded, the sewer breaking. The furnace fire was put out and neighboring cellars began to fill. Street Commissioner James McGillicuddy had a force of men at work repairing the break shortly after two.

### MISERY STORY DENIED.

Germany Claims She Is Doing All Possible for the Poles.

Berlin, Dec. 26 (wireless to Saville).—"The London Times" on November 25 and 26 published an article about the misery caused by the German authorities in the occupied parts of Russian Poland, says an item given out by the Overseas News agency to-day. "In reality the German authorities did everything in their power to restore economic activity and furnish food to the occupied districts."

The grain harvested there was used entirely for the population. Since it was impossible to bring raw materials for the reopening of factories, the German authorities began road building in order to give work to the population. Now 250,000 Poles are occupied in this way. Besides, the authorities instituted employment offices for those willing to work outside their home districts."

### Peculiar Tragedy.

Asheville, N. C., Dec. 26.—John Hayes, a young farmer of Tryon, N. C., is dead from a load of buckshot and Frank Foster, of the same place, is held by the authorities as the result of a shooting to-day in the presence of two young women whose identity was not disclosed.

Reports received here said Hayes was walking with the girls when Foster stepped from behind a bush.

"Step aside please, a gun can kill you," Foster is quoted as saying to Hayes. The latter laughed and one of Hayes' companions placed her hand in his